

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 24

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to recognize Alma and Billy Ford on the occasion of their retirement from service to the State of Tennessee as Resident Managers of the Governor's Residence.

WHEREAS, It is appropriate that the members of this legislative body should honor those citizens who in their years of work have performed with uncommon devotion and enthusiasm; and

WHEREAS, Alma and Billy Ford are two such estimable people who have served the State of Tennessee with greatest ability and integrity as the Resident Managers of the Governor's Residence for the past 16 years; and

WHEREAS, As natives of Weakley County, the Fords early on dedicated their lives to the service of humanity; and

WHEREAS, In her work as a registered nurse at Martin Medical Center, Alma daily, and with tremendous sensitivity, tended to the needs of the ailing and afflicted; and

WHEREAS, During his career in the U.S. Army, Billy valiantly served this great country with courage and acumen for many years, earning an astounding array of honors, including two Purple Hearts, a Silver Star, two Bronze Stars of Valor, two Army Commendations, the Korean Service Medal and the Vietnam Service Medal; and

WHEREAS, Initiating their illustrious tenure as Resident Managers of the Governor's Residence in 1987 at the onset of Governor Ned McWherter's administration, the Fords have

served four gubernatorial terms and two governors, remaining in residence during Governor Don Sundquist's administration at his special request; and

WHEREAS, Over the past 16 years, Alma and Billy Ford have provided unusually loyal service to the State and to Governor Ned McWherter and Governor Don Sundquist, as they have given liberally and unreservedly of their personal time, acting as the hostess and host of the Governor's Residence; and

WHEREAS, Alma Ford has served above and beyond the call of duty, not only managing the staff and affairs of the Governor's Residence and organizing and executing countless official events, but also attending to the less material requirements of the position, furthering the well-being of all those she encountered in her work by providing late-night meals to the exhausted Governors, monitoring the health of their families and nurturing the personal interests of guests and staff alike; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ford likewise has set aside his personal concerns to assiduously tend to the Governor's Residence, as he has meticulously maintained the grounds, supervised the groundskeeping staff, performed repairs and even manned the grill when called upon to do so; and

WHEREAS, Through their remarkable fidelity and extraordinary attentiveness, Alma and Billy Ford routinely transformed the Governor's Residence into a sanctuary of beauty, warmth and hospitality, refreshing the spirits of all who entered this magnificent edifice; and

WHEREAS, Alma and Billy Ford exemplify the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of true Tennesseans as the parents of five children, Donna Wilson, Kay Wright, Mike Ford, Mark Ford and Maury Ford; they also have eleven grandchildren and one great-grandchild; and

WHEREAS, As members of the Baptist Church, the Fords have been voices of integrity and are extremely giving individuals who often reach out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, epitomizing the ideal of the humble Christian, dedicated public servant and reliable friend and neighbor; and

WHEREAS, Throughout their estimable careers, Alma and Billy Ford have demonstrated the remarkable ability to entertain and empathize with people from all walks of life, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of Governor Ned McWherter, Governor Don Sundquist, their families and staffs, the members of this General Assembly and the citizens of this great State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Alma and Billy Ford for their honorable and astute service to the State of Tennessee as Resident Managers of the Governor's Residence and extend to them our best wishes for a happy and fulfilling retirement.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.